

Christ's Description of Himself

Revelation 1-3

Revelation is the only document in the Bible that contains Jesus Christ's personal description of Himself. It is of particular importance to us because it describes Him as He is today, not as He was during His thirty-three years of self-limitation on earth, when He came to suffer and die for our sins.

It will be profitable for us to examine these statements. When placed together as a unit, they give a clear picture of the divine nature of our Lord. Let there be no doubt about it—Jesus Christ is God! For He said of Himself:

Scripture And Reference	Comment
1:8: "I am the Alpha and the Omega."	He is The First and the Last, The Beginning and the End.
1:17: "I am the First and the Last."	This speaks of Christ's eternity.
1:18: "I am the Living One; I was dead.."	This indicates His life on earth and His crucifixion.
1:18: "I am alive for ever and ever!"	This speaks of His resurrection and eternity.
1:18: "And I hold the keys of death & Hell."	Christ controls where every person spends eternity.
2:1: "These are the words of him who holds the seven stars in his right hand."	Christ controls the messengers of the churches.
2:1: ". . . and walks among the seven golden lampstands."	Christ walks among the churches, easily accessible to them if they desire.
2:8: "These are the words of him who is the First and the Last, who died and came to life again."	Here Christ combines a reference to His eternal nature with the fact of His death and resurrection.
2:12: "These are the words of him who has the sharp, double-edged sword."	Christ presents the Word of God as His offensive weapon.
2:18: "... the Son of God."	This asserts Christ's relationship to God as His divine Son.
2:18: ". . . whose eyes are like blazing fire."	This refers to His searching gaze on the work of His Church.
2:18: ". . . whose feet are like burnished bronze." Bronze, brass, speaks of judgment.	The Lord Jesus Christ will one day judge all people.
3:1: "These are the words of him who holds the seven spirits of God and the seven stars."	The Holy Spirit will guide the messengers of the churches. She has never been without guidance, if she desires it.
3:7: "These are the words of him who is holy."	His nature is holy.
3:7: ". . . and true."	His testimony is right and can be relied upon.
3:7: ". . . who holds the key of David."	Authority to rule over God's people is His.
3:7: "What he opens no one can shut, and what he shuts no one can open."	Christ controls our opportunities to serve Him.
3:14: "These are the words of the Amen."	He has final authority.
3:14: "... the faithful and true witness."	He is the revelation of God.
3:14: ". . . the beginning of God's creation."	Christ is the author & source of all God's creation.
3:20: "...I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and sup with him and he with Me."	The Lord of glory pictures Himself standing without, knocking at the door of a person's heart. He does not force His entrance, but waits for the individual to invite Him in.

Mr. Holman Hunt has painted a beautiful picture of Christ knocking at the heart's door. It is said that one day he unveiled this picture to a friend and asked, "What do you think of it?"

"It is a beautiful picture, but I think you have forgotten something," said the friend. "There is no latch on the door."

Mr. Hunt replied, "Ah, my friend, you have missed the point of the picture. The man at the door is the Lord Jesus Christ. The door is the entrance to the human heart and the latch is on the inside. Unless the one on the inside opens the door, Jesus will never come in."¹

¹ Revelation Unveiled. By Tim LaHaye; Zondervan Publ. Co.; Grand Rapids, Mich.; ©1999.